North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD)

Resolution No. 2017-04

A Resolution Amending the November 4, 2016 Financial Policy No. 1, Resolution No. 2016-42

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors is the statutory governing body in and for the North Central Regional Transit District (District) and finds it in the best interest of the constituents of the District to establish polices to ensure the financial stability of the District; and

WHEREAS, the current Financial Policy was adopted on November 4, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee at their October 28, 2016 meeting reviewed draft changes to the District's Financial Policy and have recommended consideration of those changes to the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the Board, after thorough consideration and upon recommendation of the Finance Committee and staff, find that it is prudent to amend the District's Financial Policy attached hereto.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE NCRTD BOARD THAT:

1. The attached "Financial Policy No. 1" is hereby approved and adopted this 13th day of January 2017,
2. Management is directed to develop and implement such administrative procedures as may be reasonably necessary to ensure appropriate account and maximize accountability for District funds.

Daniel R. Barone, Chairman

Approved as to form:

Peter Dwyer, Counsel

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT	
SUBJECT: Financial Policies	**NUMBER: Financial - 01**
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 13th, 2017	**Adopted and amended by Board Resolution No. 2011-10 on November 4, 2011, 2013-04 on March 1, 2013, 2013-29 on November 8, 2013 and 2015-29 on October 9, 2015, 2016-42 on November 4, 2016, 2017-04 on January 13, 2017.**
AMENDS/SUPERSEDES: **Policies adopted by Board on July 14, 2011, November 4, 2011, March 1, 2013, November 8, 2013, October 9, 2015, November 4, 2016.**	**APPROVED:** Anthony J. Mortillaro **ANTHONY J. MORTILLARO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Purpose

The Financial Policies described herein are designed to provide a comprehensive framework for the management of financial resources for the North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD). They provide guidelines for decision making by the NCRTD Board and management on how financial resources shall be utilized to fulfill the mission of the transit system, meet obligations and protect the public interest.

Objectives:

- Cost effective allocation and use of NCRTD financial resources in achieving the Districts mission.
- Compliance with applicable Federal and State laws, regulations and guidelines governing transit funding.
- Use of sound business and accounting practices in managing NCRTD financial affairs.
- Consistent financial practices, operational efficiencies and best practices.

1. Budgetary Policies

The adopted budget represents the ongoing commitment of the management and staff to operate and maintain the NCRTD in a fiscally sound manner according to the guidelines, policies and direction set forth herein. The Budget spans a fiscal year (beginning July 1 and ending June 30) and contains operating and non-operating revenues and expenses, grants, capital expenditures and reserves for the District. The budget is an appropriation document that

gives the District the authority to spend funds for operating expenses, other expenditures such as contracts and capital and reserves.

Each year, the District staff will develop a budget plan that will lead to the Board's review and adoption of the subsequent year's budget. The timing of this process will be consistent with the established strategy and priorities at the District and with statutory requirements.

The District will also prepare a ten-year Long Term Financial plan for the purpose of identifying future financial challenges. It will be updated annually concurrent with the development of the annual budget.

A budget calendar for the fiscal year is to be established to make clear deliverables and deadlines.

Each year the District will establish a budget by:

- Providing a comprehensive review of the Districts sources and uses of funds for operating and capital expenditures.
- Tailoring the budget process into an effective management tool for setting financial priorities and meeting strategic objectives.
- Ensuring that the budget manages financial resources in a manner that:
    - Is prudent and sustainable
    - Meets financial requirements of medium and long-term capital needs
- Producing budget information that is:
    - Clear, comprehensible and transparent to employees and constituencies
    - Accurate, timely, and easy to access
- Monitoring and analyzing revenues and expenditures throughout the fiscal year for compliance and accountability.
- A quarterly cash and investment report and monthly one-year cash flow forecast report will be prepared.
- Current appropriations for all funds are limited to the sum available, unrestricted cash balances and revenues estimated to be received in the current budget year.
- All District divisions will operate within the adopted budget. From time to time, the District will consider spending requests for new or expanded programs during the course of the fiscal year and, to the extent possible, such increases to current operations will be funded by reoccurring current revenues unless the request is for a one-time activity that does not require an ongoing funding allocation. On occasion, there may be a need for Board action to draw funds from the Districts un-appropriated balance in order to meet unforeseen financial requirements.
- Capital assets owned by the District shall be maintained on a regular schedule. The District will recognize the impact of wear and tear of existing capital assets in the operating budget. Maintenance costs will be identified and incorporated into the annual operating budget as necessary. These costs include items such as renovations, maintenance and service contracts.
- District funds will be reconciled at the close of the fiscal year to determine the available cash balance at year end.

- Reports to the Board shall include Fiscal Impact discussions as to how they may affect the budget plus the estimated cost and benefit of the program or service in the current and future years.

2. **Budgetary Control:**

Budget control is maintained at the departmental/divisional level. The Executive Director has the authority to approve appropriation transfers between programs, divisions or departments. In no case may total expenditures adopted for the fiscal year exceed that which is appropriated by the District Board without budget amendment.

3. **Vendor Payment Policies**

The District's policy is to make prompt payment to vendor's who have provided services or goods in compliance with a valid written agreement. The District seeks to ensure that all goods and services are received and conform to contractual requirements prior to making payment. Thereafter, payments should be made in the most efficient, timely and cost effective manner possible.

To this end, the District has implemented a "Vendor Direct Deposit Program". The program allows for vendors to elect to receive an Automated Clearing House (ACH) payment for goods and services provided to the District. Automated Clearing House (ACH) is an electronic network for financial transactions. Payments are made instantaneously upon initiation of an ACH transfer. Therefore, any approval of a transfer comes after the transfer occurs and payments over $20,000 will occur prior to receipt of confirming signatures. Payments made through the "Vendor Direct Deposit Program" in excess of $20,000.00 will be confirmed as authorized by obtaining hard copy, written approvals with the signature of the Executive Director and the Finance Director and placing a copy of the written confirmation in the appropriate District files.

The NCRTD Finance Director is authorized to add vendors and develop procedures to insure appropriate accounting and maximum accountability in accordance with GASB and Internal Controls set by the District.

Non-ACH Payments to vendors over $20,000.00 require two authorized check signors (i.e. Board Chairman, Executive Director, or Board Secretary/Treasurer). The Finance Director is also a signor for the District for purposes of maintaining bank relationships or in cases where the Finance Director is handling issues directly with the bank, but only under extenuating circumstances should the Finance Director sign a check issued by the Finance Department (i.e. Executive Director is out-of-town, the Board Chair or Secretary/Treasurer are unavailable or unable to contact the aforementioned signors for signature).

To insure accountability of the payments made to vendor, whether by ACH or by check, a list of payments over $20,000.00 will be provided quarterly to the Finance Subcommittee for review and eventual recommendation to the Board for concurrence of payment.

4. Operating Program:

The District utilizes a general operating fund, which will be used to account for all financial transactions required for the current operation of the public transportation system. The two primary components of this fund are:

A. Operating Income (Income Sources)

- Operating income includes revenues derived from the Regional Transit Gross Receipts Transit tax (RT GRT), operating and capital assistance (federal and state funds), passenger fares, contractual reimbursements or contributions, interest income, and other miscellaneous sources of revenue.
    - For all federal transit grants awarded from New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), adherence to financial rules, regulations, and reporting will be complied with by NCRTD as per the New Mexico State Management Plan for the Administration of Federal Transit Grants, the annual Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Certifications and Assurances, and any subgrantee federal funding contract/memorandum of agreement with NMDOT.

- The District will continuously seek new revenues and will, to the extent consistent with its public transit objectives, pursue a diverse revenue base in an effort to maintain a stable revenue stream. Seeking revenue diversity will help shelter the District from short-term fluctuations in any one revenue source.

- Revenues from the RT GRT are tracked in a line item dedicated to that purpose. According to the ballot initiative that created the RT GRT, the funds are to be used to expand regional public transit in the four-county area. The District interprets this to mean that RT GRT funds should be used to implement approved service plans per Board adopted resolutions. Approved service plans may include, but are not limited to, establishing entirely new regional routes; increasing the frequency of service on existing routes; purchasing more and larger vehicles so more riders may avail themselves of public transit; acquiring fixed capital assets and technology to solely be utilized on those approved regional routes, converting pilot projects to regular services; and coordinating with other service providers, such as Santa Fe Trails, Taos Chili Line, Atomic City Transit, the Rail Runner, and Park & Ride to improve services and strive to provide a seamless transit experience to those in the District's service area.

  The following definition has been adopted by the Board and will be utilized to ascertain whether a proposed regional route is eligible to be funded by RT GRT:

  1. It connects to a service that leaves the district such as the Rail Runner or Park & Ride; or
  2. It crosses a jurisdictional line between Members;
  3. It connects two or more Members;

4. It is solely within a single Member's local area but directly connects both in time and location with a service or route that makes possible travel outside the local area to another Member's area;
5. It connects two distinct and separate communities within one Member's area such as Questa and Red River in Taos County or Los Alamos and White Rock in Los Alamos County;
6. The Board of Directors will annually review all service plans within the region in order to determine regional routes by the qualification stated above. The board will have the ability to add or eliminate routes based on criteria for efficiency within the District.

The following funding allocation method will be used to determine the amount of RT GRT that will be allocated toward Board approved services on an annual basis, as provided below.

Entity	Percentage of Total Fiscal Year Projected NCRTD Transit GRT Revenue
City of Santa Fe	14%
Los Alamos County	20%
Rail Runner	26%
NCRTD (Santa Fe County, Rio Arriba County, and Taos County)	40%

In the event that RT GRT revenue(s) do not materialize as projected in the adopted fiscal year budget, it is the Board's stated desire that funding for services will be retained to the extent feasible. In order to achieve this priority the Board will consider the adjustment of the percentage allocations described in the above allocation methodology excluding the Rail Runner whose funding is prescribed through an Intergovernmental Agreement dated February 2009. The modification in the revenue percentage allocations will be proportionate to the reduction in the RT GRT revenue.

It is also the Board's priority that as a last resort, transit services provided solely and directly by the NCRTD should not be reduced. In the event that such a reduction is likely, the Executive Director may recommend to the Board for its consideration the use of operating reserves to the extent necessary and without violating the Reserve Policy requirements herein.

RT GRT revenue that is deemed to be reoccurring revenue and not allocated for regional routes is placed in the operating reserve balance and reserve for service enhancements and as such maybe be available for allocation in the following year for expanded service of regional routes as recommended by the Executive Director and adopted by the Board on the bases of the methodology for the allocation of RT GRT as described above. Prior to commitment of any remaining RT GRT reserve operating balance in the ensuing fiscal year to expanded regional service routes, these routes must be included in the requesting entities annual service plan and adopted by the NCRTD Board as well. In no event will these funds

be allocated for new or expanded service regional routes if it will result in the diminishment of the reserve operating balance requirements as described within these policies or if it will impact the Districts ability to meet its capital equipment and infrastructure requirements.

The District is responsible for seeing that RT GRT funds are spent appropriately. For those entities operating their own transit services an invoice shall be submitted quarterly to the District requesting reimbursement of funds spent in accordance with RT GRT funded service plans and adopted cost allocation methodology. Invoices shall contain sufficient line-item detail to support the appropriateness of the expenditure and concurrence with the intended use of the funds. Upon receipt and review of the invoice, the District will reimburse the entity, provided sufficient RT GRT funds have been received.

B. In reference to Tribal Transit Funds if awarded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to a Tribal Entity, the Tribal Entity maintains the authority to 1) utilize all Tribal Transit Funds received for Tribal Transit / Transportation Initiatives; 2) allocate through an agreement a portion of Tribal Transit Funds to the NCRTD; 3) allocate through an agreement all Tribal Transit Funds received to the NCRTD.

1) Tribe utilizes all FTA Tribal Transit Funds for Tribal Transit / Transportation Initiatives.
    a. No Agreement with the NCRTD.

2) Tribe allocates through an agreement a portion of FTA Tribal Transit Funds to the NCRTD. The process for managing these funds includes the following steps:
    a. Tribe determines a need for additional services requiring a portion of Tribal Transit funds be allocated through an agreement to the NCRTD to provide contracted transit services.
    b. The NCRTD will assess the additional services requested by the Tribe and provide the Tribe with a Scope of Work, Budget & Budget Narrative.
    c. The Tribe will review and make any necessary changes to documents and return to NCRTD for review and re-submittal.
    d. Upon agreement of transit services to be contracted to the NCRTD, the Tribe and NCRTD will sign a Professional Services Contract detailing agreement between Tribe as the recipient of FTA Tribal Transit Funds and the NCRTD as the sub-contractor to include: Scope of Work, Budget, and Budget Narrative.
    e. Contract, Scope of Work, Budget and other Program Information will be entered into the Federal Transit Authority's (FTA) TEAM web system by the Tribe or authorized NCRTD personnel if stated in agreement.
    f. Reports: Quarterly Financial, Monthly Progress, Monthly Ridership Reports are submitted to the FTA / FederalReporting.gov / TEAM web portal and will be completed by Tribe or authorized NCRTD personnel. Copies of all reports will be sent to Tribe for record keeping if the NCRTD personnel perform the reporting requirements.
    g. Any changes or modifications to the Scope of Work, Budget, and Budget Narrative must be approved and documented by the Tribe prior to NCRTD

changing services or requesting reimbursement or payment for services provided under agreement.

h. The NCRTD will advances funds to cover operating costs of contracted transit services.
i. NCRTD will submit a detailed "Invoice" of work, services performed and provided to the Tribe per Scope of Work and Agreement for approval and processing.
j. Tribe will approve "Invoice" of work and services performed and provided by the NCRTD and request a drawdown from the FTA.
k. Upon receipt of funds from the FTA, the Tribe within 7 days will process payment to the NCRTD.
l. The Tribe and the NCRTD will meet periodically to evaluate the effectiveness of the services being provided, available budget, and discuss any necessary changes.

3) Tribe allocates through an agreement all FTA Tribal Transit Funds received to the NCRTD for the provision of contract transit services. The process for managing these funds includes the following steps:
   a. Tribe determines a need to allocate through an agreement all FTA Tribal Transit funds to the NCRTD for the provision of FTA funded contractual transit services to be continued.
   b. The NCRTD and the Tribe will assess current FTA funded services being provided to the Tribe and provide the Tribe with a Scope of Work, Budget and Budget Narrative of the FTA funded current services and how these funds will be utilized to continue transit services.
   c. The Tribe will review and make any necessary changes to documents and return them to the NCRTD for review and re-submittal.
   d. Upon agreement of transit services to be contracted to the NCRTD, the Tribe and NCRTD will sign a Professional Services Contract detailing agreement between Tribe as the recipient of FTA Tribal Transit Funds and the NCRTD as the sub-contractor to include: Scope of Work, Budget, and Budget Narrative.
   e. Contract, Scope of Work, Budget and other Program Information will be entered into the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) TEAM web system by the Tribe or authorized NCRTD personnel if stated in agreement.
   f. Reports: Quarterly Financial, Monthly Progress, Monthly Ridership Reports are submitted to the FTA / FederalReporting.gov / TEAM web portal and will be completed by Tribe or authorized NCRTD personnel. Copies of all reports will be sent to Tribe for record keeping if the NCRTD personnel perform the reporting requirements.
   g. Any changes or modifications to the Scope of Work, Budget, and Budget Narrative must be approved and documented by the Tribe prior to the NCRTD changing services or requesting reimbursement or payment for services provided under agreement.
   h. The NCRTD will advances funds to cover operating costs of contracted transit services.

i. NCRTD will submit a detailed "Invoice" of work, services performed and provided to the Tribe per Scope of Work and Agreement for approval and processing.
j. Tribe will approve "Invoice" of work and services performed and provided by the NCRTD and request a drawdown from the FTA.
k. Upon receipt of funds from the FTA, the Tribe within 7 days will process payment to the NCRTD.
l. The Tribe and the NCRTD will meet periodically to evaluate the effectiveness of the services being provided, available budget, and discuss any necessary changes.

Application Process:

1) When requested by Tribe, the NCRTD will assist with the Grant Application to include a set percentage (5%) for Administrative costs. If the Grant is awarded the Tribal Transit Funds Policy will be utilized to manage these funds.

2) The NCRTD, if requested and there is a signed agreement by all the Tribe's, will submit a Joint Application on behalf of the Tribe's in agreement. Prior to submittal of Joint Application, the Tribes will review and approve the Application, Scope of Work, Budget, and Budget Narrative being submitted on their behalf. If the Grant is awarded the Tribal Transit Funds Policy will be utilized to manage these funds.

3) The Tribe's on their own behalf may apply for Tribal Transit Funds. If the Grant is awarded the Tribal Transit Funds Policy will be utilized to manage these funds.

C. Operating Expenses

Operating expenses are defined as the day-to-day costs incurred for public transit delivery, administrative overhead, and other common and normal expenses.

D. Operating Balance (difference between operating income and operating expenses)

The operating balance is utilized to fund the capital program and reserve requirements.

E. Administrative Overhead Costs

Direct and Indirect costs that are incurred for common or joint purposes in support of transit service or capital programs. Costs are allocated to programs based on allocation methods which comply with Federal and State guidelines.

5. Reserve Policy

This Financial Reserve Policy contains practices that govern the management of the District's financial reserves in order to:

- Maintain access to capital markets and other sources of capital funding at the most efficient cost of funds for the District;
- Manage financial risks prudently by maintaining required and additional financial reserves to meet the Districts financial needs;
- Meet New Mexico State Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) requirements for minimum reserve balance requirements and any Board requirements;
- Provide the District with the ability to withstand national, regional and local major economic disruptions, unanticipated expenditure demands and meet the need for other non-recurring expenses except for as provided within the reserve policies.
- Meet or exceed all debt coverage requirements, if any; and
- Establish prudent levels of liquidity.

The District will maintain at all times one month of operating revenue as a cash reserve to meet DFA requirements.

The District will seek to maintain at all times an amount equaling 25% of its operating revenue as an unrestricted cash reserve which is inclusive of the DFA requirement distributed as follows:

A. Reserve for Operations (budget stabilization): It is the goal of the Board of Directors to annually direct 15% of the unrestricted reserves into this fund to meet unexpected decreases of more than 5% in the levels of total revenues and subsidies, as well an unexpected increases of more than 5% in total operating costs such as unanticipated and unbudgeted increases in fuel costs or other operating materials that cannot be rebalanced within existing budgeted resources in any given year in order to protect against reducing service levels when these fluctuations occur. This reserve will be maintained at a maximum of twenty percent (25%) of the annual operating revenues.
B. Reserve for Capital and Capital Replacement: It is the goal of the Board of Directors to annually direct 5% of the unrestricted reserves into this fund. In addition, revenues from the sale of surplus property or fixed assets will be directed towards this reserve fund. This reserve fund will provide the District with funds to meet matching requirements or non-matched purchases for fleet replacement, new fleet and replacement or acquisition of fixed assets. This reserve will be maintained at a maximum of fifteen percent (15%) of the annual operating revenues.
C. Reserve for Service Enhancements: This fund will be developed to build up fiscal resources in anticipation of future service enhancements. The intent is to build up a reserve of operating funds before potential service enhancements would be enacted in order to smooth the impact on the operating budget of a higher level of service and operating costs. When the Board has authorized existing service enhancements or new service enhancements then the Resolution approving such may also include the authorization to use this reserve fund for that purpose as required by section "E" below. The targeted balance of this reserve fund should be

sufficient to cover operating expense of the proposed service enhancement for a three-year period.

D. Reserve for Debt Service: When the District issues debt this reserve will be funded through bond proceeds equal to the highest year debt service obligation of the District. These funds are held by the trustee for payment of related debt service.
E. Approval for Use of Reserve Fund: Each proposed use of the reserve fund will be subject to Board approval. For each use of the aforementioned reserve funds, the Board will approve a resolution which will describe the need to use the reserve fund, and the uses for which reserve funds will be expended. By Resolution of the Board the Board upon recommendation of the Executive Director may consider the modification of the allocations herein in order to avoid any service reductions.

6. Capital Program

The NCRTD Capital Investment Plan (CIP) shall describe capital expenditures to be incurred to meet capital needs arising from long-term plans, asset maintenance or other capital needs. It sets forth each project in which the NCRTD will be involved and specifies the resources estimated to be available or required to finance the projected expenditures. The Executive Director shall submit to the NCRTD Board a proposed Capital Investment Plan prior to or in conjunction with the annual proposed budget. The Board shall approve the CIP no later than June 1 of each year. In the event that this date falls on a weekend, the preceding Friday shall prevail.

A. The Executive Director reviews all District capital projects to be recommended for inclusion in the CIP subject to the oversight and approval of the Board. In this capacity the Executive Director or a designee will:

    a. Affirm the linkage between proposed Capital Projects and the Districts strategic goals and objectives;
    b. Asses the linkage between the capital and operating budgets to ensure appropriate allocation of resources;
    c. Reaffirm the validity of a proposed CIP for annual approval by the District Board;
    d. Provide discipline and enforcement to the approved CIP;
    e. Monitor the progress of Capital Projects. Major changes in project scope or direction shall be presented to the Board for approval;
    f. Review the qualitative and quantitative (including financial analysis) evaluation of Capital Projects to determine the priority of projects;
    g. Review, assess and approve or deny the placement of proposed Capital Projects on the CIP;
    h. Review CIP policies and procedures periodically and implementing changes as necessary;
    i. Provide a mechanism for financial and resource planning for the District;
    j. Authorize total project cost and fiscal year cost allocation changes.

B. The CIP is a planning document only. Any appropriations for specific project must be approved by the Board during the annual budget process.

C. The Districts CIP either creates a new asset or significantly extends the life of an existing asset.

D. Large Capital equipment purchases may be included in the CIP.

E. The Districts Capital Program will be used to account for the planning/design, acquisition, construction and reconstruction/rehabilitation of major capital facilities and equipment. It may include Federal and State grants as well as local funds to be used for capital acquisition and construction with and without benefit of grant funding including transfers from the Annual Operating Reserve Balance, project-related reimbursements, debt financing or other sources of capital funding.

F. Capital Expenditures are defined as expenditures incurred to meet capital needs arising from the District CIP, asset capital maintenance or other capital needs.

G. Capital Expenditure

a) Items/acquisitions that have a useful life in excess of one year and an acquisition cost of greater than or equal to $5,000.

b) Direct and eligible indirect costs, which are related and add value to a capital project, shall also be defined as capital expenditures.

H. Capital Performance Policy Objectives

a. The NCRTD will seek to obtain maximum Federal and State financing by pursing all appropriate funding available for public transportation systems.

b. A portion of the annual CIP will be allocated to the proper maintenance of the Districts capital assets including regular replacement of the fleet and equipment and the rehabilitation or replacement of facilities.

I. Capital Investment Plan Funding

Funding of the CIP will endeavor to fund capital needs from a combination of sources including:

- Pay-as-you–Go (cash funded, PAYGO)
- Grants from Federal/State/Other Sources
- Debt Financing and special loans

The CIP funding strategy will emphasize the use of PAYGO as a means to meet transit funding requirements with debt used as a secondary source. The level of PAYGO funding will be dependent on a number of factors including availability of

funds from the RT GRT and other sources, the appropriate levels of retained fund balances, economic and other factors.

7. Debt Policy

The purpose of the Debt Policy is to establish guidelines for the issuance and management of the Districts debt. The District has the ability to issue debt under its statutory authority. This Debt Policy confirms the commitment of the Board, management, staff, advisors and other decision makers to adhere to sound financial management practices, including full and timely repayment of all borrowings, and achieving an appropriate level of capital within prudent risk parameters. The following objectives of the Debt Policy include the following:

- Obtain and maintain a high credit rating;
- Provide for an efficient overall cost of borrowing for the District;
- Provide specific guidelines with respect to the overall management of debt if incurred;
- Set forth a process for selecting various consultants who will assist the District in the issuance and management of the Districts debt;
- Support for the District's strategic plan objectives;

This Debt Policy shall govern the issuance and management of all debt and lease financings (excludes small item leasing such as copiers, etc…) funded from the capital markets, and shall include all obligations including investment of bond proceeds.

While adherence to this Debt Policy is required in applicable circumstances, the District recognized that changes in capital markets and unforeseen circumstances may produce situations that are not covered by the Debt Policy or require modifications or exceptions to achieve Debt Policy goals. In these cases, specific authorization from the Board is necessary to provide management appropriate flexibility. However, long term debt will be used on an as needed basis to fund the Districts capital investment needs.

The Debt Policy requires that each debt be specifically authorized by the District Board.

Debt Financing:

i. Principal maturity for debt will be linked to asset life and will not exceed thirty (30) years.
ii. Variable rate or other short term maturing debt maybe issued for capital purposes in anticipation of receipt of approved Federal and/or State grants, with the goal of repaying a portion or all of the debt issued upon receipt of funds.
iii. Issuance of debt must be linked to:
    1. Adequate encumbrance capacity to let contracts for the entire capital program in the most effective sequence.
    2. Cash flow requirements.

3. Fund balance to guard against anticipated/unanticipated risks

iv. RT GRT will be used for the payment of annual debt service costs.

v. Debt will not be used for annual operating costs.

Lease Financing:

Lease obligations are a routine and appropriate means of financing capital equipment. These types of obligations maybe considered for equipment and assets that are not financed as a cost item under normal operating expenditures. The useful life of the equipment, the terms and conditions of the lease, and the direct impact on debt capacity and budget flexibility will be evaluated prior to the implementation of a lease program. Efforts will be made to fund capital equipment with a pay-as-you-go financing where feasible. Cash flow sufficiency, capital program requirements, lease program structures and cast and market factors will be considered in conjunction with a pay-as-you-go strategy in lieu of financing. Short-term equipment leases that do not access the capital markets are not covered by this policy.

Debt Service Coverage Ratios:

Debt Service coverage ratios establish a guideline for levels of annual operating costs relative to current and future debt service costs. This performance objective for Net debt service coverage is that the Operating Balance shall be greater than 1.25 times the annual debt service cost; however, the actual terms and conditions specific to each bond issue are controlled by the bond documents.

The net debt service coverage ratio is calculated as follows:

i. Operating income less operating expense equals the operating balance

ii. Operating balance divided by the annual debt service costs equals net debt service coverage ratio

The performance objective for Gross debt service coverage ratio (i.e. annual regional transit gross receipts tax/annual cumulative debt service cost) shall be maintained at a minimum of 3.0 times.

The maintenance of a debt service coverage ratio together with other performance measures provides multiple measures for the financial soundness of the NCRTD.

Refunding Bonds:

A present value analysis must be prepared that identifies the economic effects of any refunding to be proposed to the Board. It is acknowledged that some refunding may be executed for other than economic purposes, such as to restructure debt, change the type of debt instruments being used, or to retire a bond issue and

indenture in order to achieve more desirable covenants. Approval by the Board is required for any refunding.

Method of Bond Sale:

The District will generally utilize a competitive sale process when complex bond structuring and marketing requirements are not an issue and the perceived pricing differential between competitive and negotiated sale is negligible. There are three potential methods of sale: competitive, negotiated, and private placement. Each type of bond sale has the potential to provide the lowest cost given the right conditions. The conditions under which each type of bond sale is best used are provided below. All or some of the conditions discussed will affect the method of sale.

A. Competitive Sale

1. Bond prices are stable and/or demand is strong.
2. Issuer has a strong credit rating.
3. Issuer is well known to investors.
4. There are no complex explanations required during marketing, regarding: issuer's projects, media coverage, political structure, political support, funding, or credit quality.
5. The bond type and structural features are conventional.
6. Bond insurance is included or pre-qualified (available).
7. Manageable transaction size.
8. Market timing and interest rate sensitivity are not critical to the pricing.

B. Negotiated Sale

1. Bond prices are volatile and/or demand is weak or supply of competing bonds is high.
2. Market timing is important, such as for refunding.
3. Coordination of multiple components of the financing is required.
4. Issuer has lower or weakening credit rating.
5. Issuer is not well known to investors.
6. Sale and marketing of the bonds will require complex explanations about the issuer's projects, media coverage, political structure, political support, funding, or credit quality.
7. The bond type and/or structural features are non-standard, such as for a forward bond sale, issuance of variable rate bonds or where there is use of derivative products.
8. Bond insurance is not available or not offered.
9. Early structuring and market participation by underwriters desired.
10. Pre-qualified underwriter's pool.
11. Large transaction size.
12. Expected high retail demand.

C. Private Placement

A Private Placement is a sale that is structured specifically for one purchaser such as a bank. The District reserves the right to privately place its securities if the need arises. Furthermore, any member of the active underwriting pool who presents the District with a cost savings financing plan, will be awarded to manage the financing/restructuring transaction.

Bond Consultants:

The District will select its financial advisors and its bond counsel by competitive process through a Request for Proposals (RFP). The District's contracting policies, which are in effect at the time, will apply to all contracts with finance professionals. Selection may be based on a best value approach for professional services or the lowest responsive cost effective bid based upon pre-determined criteria.

All financial advisors, bond counsel and underwriters will be selected through a Request for Proposals (RFP) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process, whichever is most appropriate given the circumstances. In isolated instances, such contracts may be awarded on a sole source basis if it is clear that a RFP/RFQ process would not be feasible or in the District's interests.

Financial Advisors:

The District may retain one or more financial advisory firms to provide general advice on the District's debt management program, financial condition, budget options, arbitrage rebate review, and rating agency relations. Additionally, a financial advisor may assist with the structuring of the District's Revenue Bond issuances and may be used on an as-needed basis to provide financial advisory services that do not fall into the other categories of District debt obligations.

Financing Teams:

Financial advisors, bond counsel, and underwriters, where applicable, will be selected through a competitive process. Depending on particular expertise and consultant availability, some firms may be used on more than one program. However, efforts will be made to establish different teams to provide a number of firms the opportunity to participate in District contracts.

Bond Counsel:

The District debt will include a written opinion by legal counsel affirming that the District is authorized to issue the proposed debt, that the District has met all constitutional and statutory requirements necessary for issuance, and a determination of the proposed debt's federal and state income tax status. An

appropriately experienced bond counsel firm (or firms) will prepare this approving opinion and other documents relating to the issuance of debt with extensive experience in public finance.

Disclosure Counsel:

The District will hire Disclosure Counsel(s) to prepare official statements in the event of any debt restructuring/refinancing or new bond issue. Disclosure Counsel(s) will be responsible for ensuring that the official statement complies with all applicable rules, regulations and guidelines. Disclosure Counsel(s) will be a well recognized firm(s) with extensive experience in public finance.

Disclosure by Financing Team Members:

The District expects that all of its financial advisory team will at all times provide the District with objective advice and analysis, maintain the confidentiality of the financial plans if required, and be free from any conflicts of interest. All financing team members will be required to provide full and complete disclosure, under penalty of perjury, relative to any and all agreements with other financing team members and outside parties that could compromise any firm's ability to provide independent advice that is solely in the best interests of the District or that could be perceived as a conflict of interest. The extent of disclosure may vary depending on the nature of the transaction.

Note: The aforementioned financial performance measures are established as policy objectives for the District management to strive to achieve in managing the affairs of the District and may be temporarily suspended, modified or amended upon management review and Board approval.

8. Risk Management Policy

The District is to be protected to a prudent extent against liability or loss, which could significantly affect personnel, property, finances or the ability of the District to continue to fulfill its responsibilities as a regional transit entity. This is to be accomplished through the continuous identification, analysis, and control of risk exposures, the determination of the best methods of preventing or limiting losses and the section of the most economical method of insurance or other means.

Policy

I. After identification of loss potential and development of loss prevention programs, the mitigation of the financial impact of loss, as it may occur, shall be based on the most economical method of providing funds to meet the obligations of the District and to restore its facilities and/or equipment.

II. Risk management techniques shall include:

a. Assumption of loss

b. Use of available government programs

c. Purchase of insurance

d. Any other program that will provide the District with the most economical method of financing losses

III. The purchase of insurance shall be considered when:

a. The estimate of the cost of potential loss exceeds an amount considered as an allowable retention of risk and there are no other techniques available at a lesser cost

b. Services of loss adjustment and loss prevention are best secured through an insured program

c. Legal or contractual obligations require insurance

9. Periodic Review and Amendment

The Financial Policies delineated herein shall be subject to review and revision by the District at least every three (3) years. This does not preclude the District from revising specific policies included herein nor from adding policies should the District determine that the best interest of the public and/or NCRTD would be served by making such a revision.

Amendments or revision to these financial policies may be initiated or proposed by any member of the District Board or by the Executive Director of the NCRTD.
Proposed amendments or revisions to these Financial Policies shall be first presented to and reviewed by the Board's Finance and Consolidation Subcommittee. The Subcommittee shall make a recommendation on any proposed amendment or revision to the District Board.

The District Board must approve any amendment or revision by majority vote before said amendment or revision shall become official policy of the NCRTD.

10. Management Reporting Requirements

The Executive Director will provide the District Board with an annual report on the Districts actual versus budget performance at the end of the fiscal year once the books have closed.